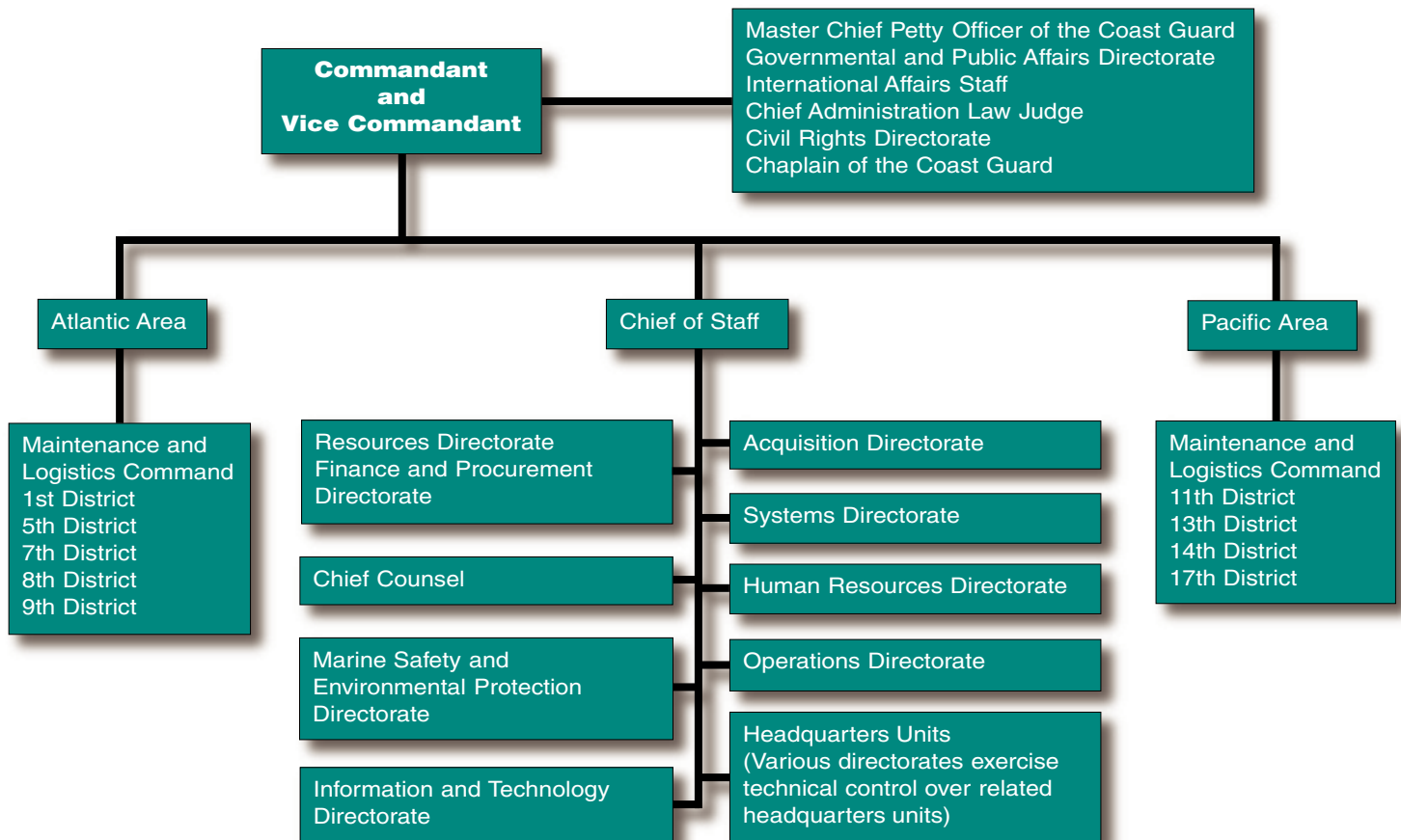


# Organizational Chart



## Where we came from

Secretary of the Treasury Alexander Hamilton envisioned a unique maritime service in 1787, when he proclaimed, A few armed vessels, judiciously stationed at the entrances of our ports, might at a small expense be made useful sentinels of our laws. On August 4, 1790, the new Congress authorized President George Washington to build and deploy up to ten Revenue Cutters to serve on the front lines of the new nations maritime sovereignty and enforce tariffs and customs duties on inbound trade. Soon after its inception, however, the scope of responsibility of the Revenue Marine (later called the Revenue Cutter Service) began to grow. Clearly, more than just a few armed vessels stationed at the

entrances of our ports would be required to ensure Americas security.

With time the Revenue Cutter Service fulfilled an ever-lengthening list of maritime roles. The Revenue

Cutter Service ultimately joined with the Life-Saving Service to form the United States Coast Guard in 1915. The new armed service also absorbed several other agencies in the ensuing years to counter a wide

range of national security threats. The Services expanded duties included the enforcement of laws against the smuggling of alcohol during Prohibition, the smuggling of illegal drugs and migrants, and the protection of Americas marine environment and fisheries, among other regulatory functions such as inspecting and regulating the steamship industry and licensing professional mariners.



This painting depicts the Revenue Cutter Vigilant's capture of the British privateer Dart during a

nighttime engagement in the Atlantic Ocean, off the coast of Block Island, R.I., Oct. 4, 1813.

COAST GUARD HISTORIAN